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(54) **Use of collagenase inhibitors in the treatment of demyelinating diseases, in particular multiple sclerosis.**

(57) The use of a compound having activity as an inhibitor of a member of the mammalian collagenase family of enzymes, including collagenase, in the treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, in particular multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders.

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NOVEL TREATMENT

The present invention relates to the use of inhibitors of the collagenase family of enzymes for treating multiple sclerosis and other disorders involving myelin degradation.

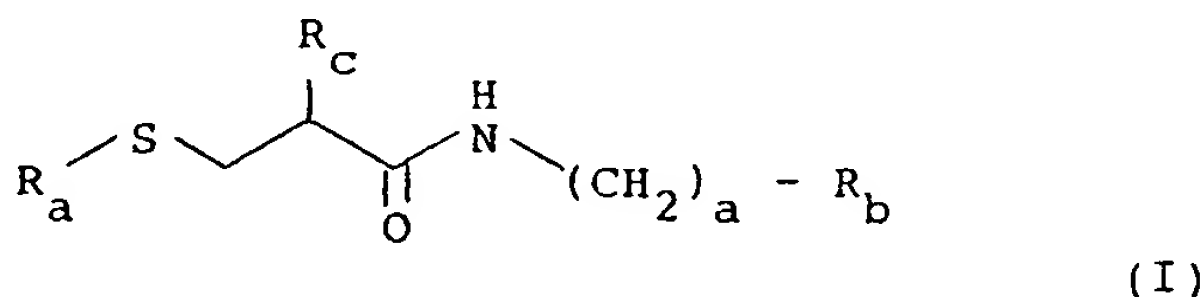
Multiple sclerosis is a chronic disease of the central nervous system in which the myelin sheaths surrounding axonal processes are degraded within discrete plaques. The clinical manifestations of the disease follow from this underlying pathological process. Similar mechanisms may underlie related diseases, such as optic neuritis, neuromyelitis optica (Devic's disease), diffuse and transitional sclerosis (Schilder's disease) and acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. Demyelinating peripheral neuropathies include acute inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathies (Landry-Guillain-Barre-Strohl syndrome for motor defects, and analogous syndromes for sensory and autonomic (pandysautonomia) deficits), and the chronic and recurrent inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathies. Demyelinating diseases can be divided into those involving primary segmental demyelination - in which the myelin destruction is probably causative - and those involving secondary segmental demyelination, in which myelin loss is a consequence of axonal atrophy, e.g. in Friedrich's ataxia.

The mammalian collagenase family of enzymes comprises a number of proteases, exemplified by interstitial (type I) collagenase itself, the stromelysins (also known as proteoglycanases or transins), fibroblast and polymorphonuclear leucocyte gelatinases (also known as collagen-IV-ases), and 'pump-1' (putative metalloprotease 1, uterine metalloprotease) [Goldberg et al, J. Biol. Chem. 261, 6600, 1986; Whitham et al, Biochem. J. 240, 913, 1986; Breathnach et al, Nucleic Acids Res., 15, 1139, 1987; Muller et al, Biochem. J., 253, 187, 1988; Collier et al, J. Biol. Chem. 263, 6579, 1988; Murphy et al, Biochem. J., 258, 463, 1989; Quantin et al, Biochem. (N.Y.), 28, 5327, 1989; Birkedal-Hansen, J. Oral Pathol., 17, 445, 1988]. Membership of the mammalian collagenase family of proteases is evident by possession of a number of highly characteristic and experimentally verifiable properties, which can be adopted as criteria for allocation to this enzyme family, selected from:

- (a) Optimal proteolytic activity around neutral pH.
- (b) Dependence of the enzyme's activity on the presence of zinc, as evident by the loss of activity on treatment with divalent metal ion chelators, such as 1,10-phenanthroline (preferential chelation of zinc), or EDTA (less restricted chelating properties; EDTA and EGTA also inactivate the enzymes via chelation of calcium ions required for enzyme stability).
- (c) Inhibition by TIMP (Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteases), a proteinaceous inhibitor thought to play a significant role in the physiological control of the collagenase family of enzymes. Other families of metalloproteases are not inhibited by TIMP, at least as far as such studies have been performed.
- (d) Absence of significant inhibition by known inhibitors of other families of neutral, zinc-containing metalloproteases, such as thermolysin, angiotensin-converting enzyme and 'enkephalinase' (EC 3.4.24.11). One of the inhibitors most often used is phosphoramidon which inhibits thermolysin and enkephalinase.
- (e) Biosynthesis and secretion as latent precursor forms (zymogens), requiring extracellular activation. Activation has been achieved by a number of endoproteases, organomercurials and chaotropic agents.

Recently, a metalloprotease acting at neutral pH has been identified as a component of myelin membranes, which is able to degrade myelin basic protein, a major component of the myelin sheath (Chantry A. et al., J. Neurochem. 50, 688-694, 1988). The enzyme is inhibited by 1,10-phenanthroline, but not by phosphoramidon. This enzyme may therefore play a significant role in the pathogenesis of the demyelinating diseases.

United States Patent no. 4,263,293 (Squibb) describes compounds of formula (I):



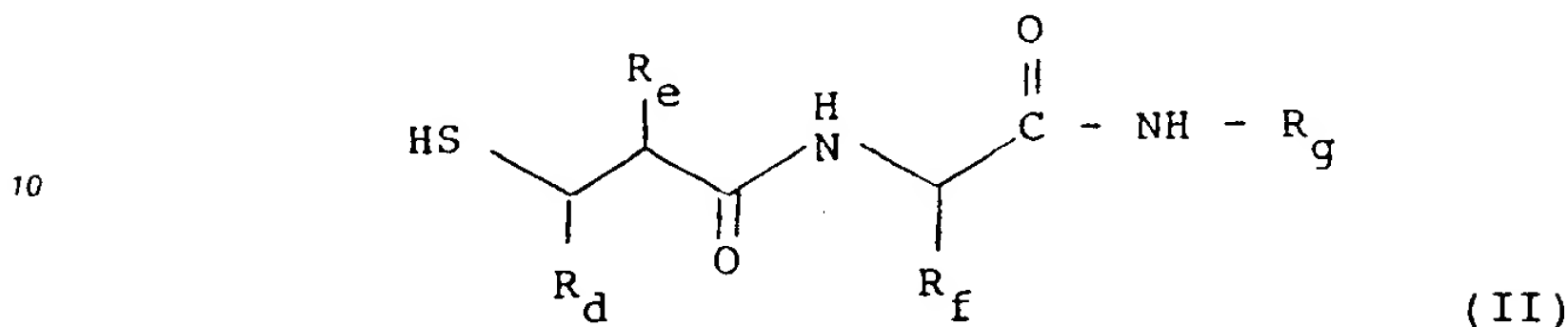
wherein R_a is hydrogen, C_2 - 10 alkanoyl or arylcarbonyl; R_b is 1-pyrrolidinyl, 1-piperidinyl, 4-morpholinyl, 1-piperazinyl or 4-alkyl-1-piperazinyl; R_c is C_3 - 8 alkyl, C_3 - 7 cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl; and a is an integer of 1

to 20.

Compounds of formula (I) are described as effective in inhibiting mammalian collagenase and for use in reducing the adverse effects of collagenase in a mammal host.

United States Patent No. 4,595,700 (Searle) describes compounds of formula (II):

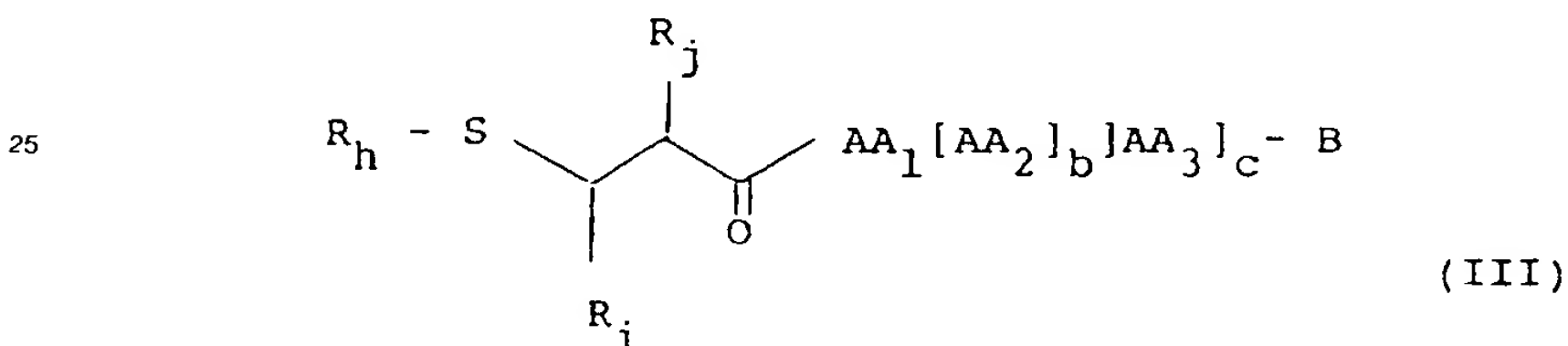
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15 wherein R_d represents lower alkyl, phenyl or phenyl lower alkyl; R_e and R_g represent lower alkyl; and R_f represents lower alkyl, benzyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxybenzyl or benzyloxybenzyl.

Compounds of formula (II) are described as collagenase inhibitors having utility in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and related diseases in which collagenolytic activity is a contributing factor.

20 International Patent Application WO88/06890 (Research Corp. Technologies Inc) describes compounds of formula (III):



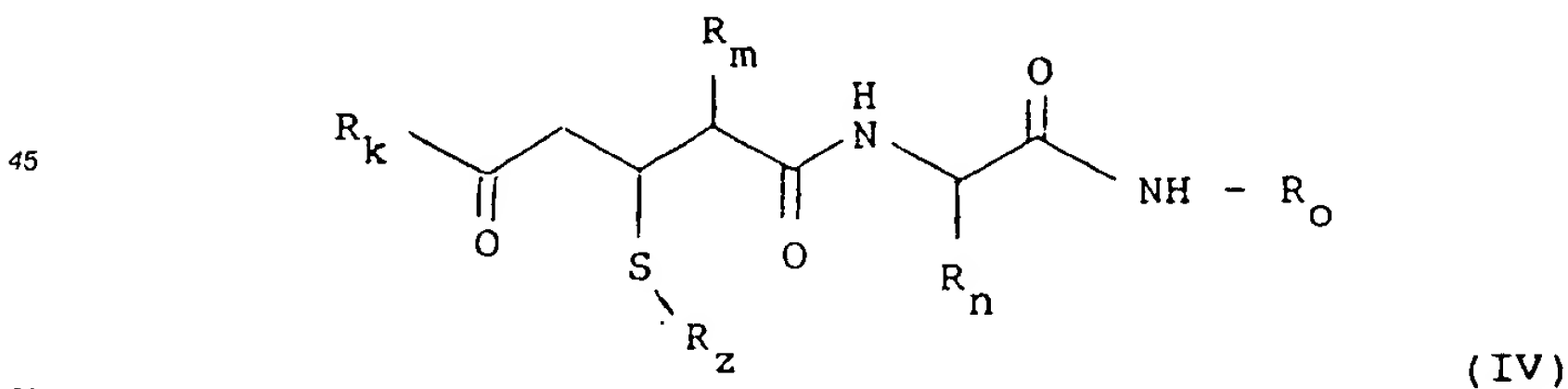
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wherein R_h is hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkanoyl or C_{7-11} aroyl; R_i is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; R_j is hydrogen, C_{2-10} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl, wherein the aryl moiety has from 6 to 10 carbon atoms; AA_1 is a hydrophobic amino acid; AA_2 is an amino acid selected from alanine, glycine, leucine, isoleucine and phenylalanine; AA_3 is any amino acid; B is $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{OCH}_3$ or $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$; b is 0 or 1; and c is 0, 1 or 2.

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Compounds of formula (III) are described as effective inhibitors of mammalian collagenase activity which may be employed in the treatment of any mammalian disease in which collagenase has been implicated as a causative factor.

40 European Patent Publication No. 273689 (Beecham) describes compounds of formula (IV):



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wherein R_k is hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkyloxy, $-\text{NR}_p\text{R}_q$ where R_p and R_q are hydrogen or alkyl, or R_p and R_q together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded form a 5- to 7-membered ring optionally including a further heteroatom, $-\text{NHCH}(\text{R}_r)\text{COR}_s$ where R_r is hydrogen, alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy, alkoxy, $-\text{NR}_p\text{R}_q$ guanidine, $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{CONH}_2$, $-\text{SH}$, $-\text{S-alkyl}$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{-A}_r$ where A_r is optionally substituted aryl, and R_s is hydroxy, alkoxy or $-\text{NR}_p\text{R}_q$; R_z is hydrogen, alkanoyl or aroyl; R_m is C_{3-6} alkyl; R_n is hydrogen, alkyl, $-\text{CH}_2\text{R}_t$ where R_t is optionally substituted phenyl or heteroaryl, or R_n is a group $-\text{CH}(\text{R}_u)\text{O-R}_v$ where R_u is hydrogen or alkyl and R_v is hydrogen, alkyl or $-\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$ where Ph is optionally

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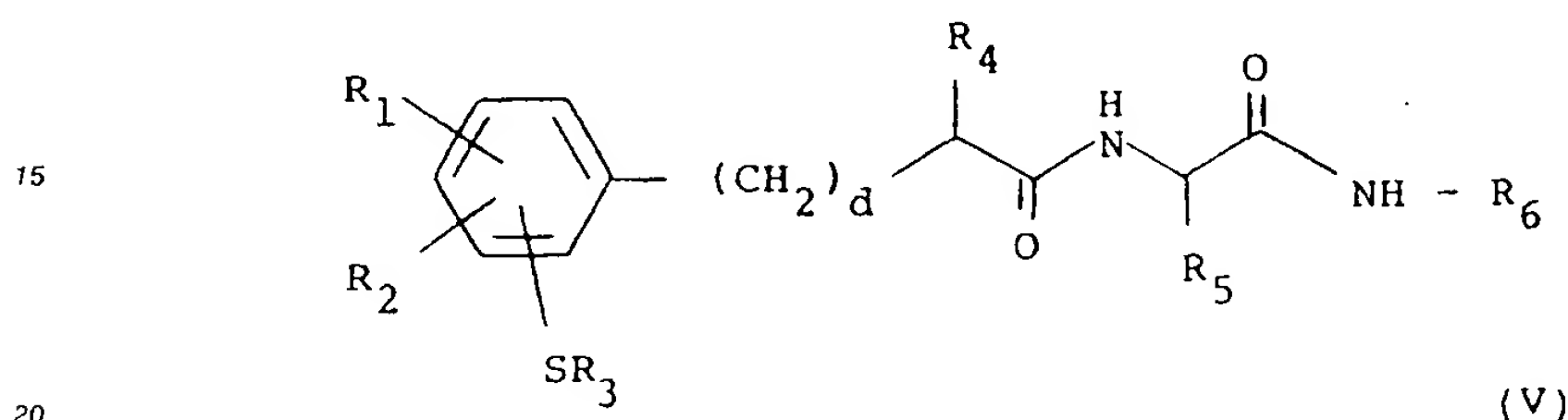
substituted phenyl; R_0 is hydrogen, alkyl, or $-\text{CH}(R_w)\text{COR}_x$ where R_w is hydrogen or alkyl and R_x is hydroxy, alkoxy or $-\text{NR}_p\text{R}_q$.

European Patent Publication No. 322184 (Beecham) describes compounds of formula (IV) wherein R_k is hydrogen, alkyl or optionally substituted aryl and variables R_l , R_m , R_n and R_o are as hereinbefore defined for compounds of formula (IV) in European Patent publication No. 273689.

Compounds of formula (IV) are described as collagenase inhibitors having utility in the treatment of disorders resulting from collagenolytic activity.

European Patent Publication No. 358305 (corresponding to United States Patent Application No. 367961) (Beecham) describes compounds of formula (V):

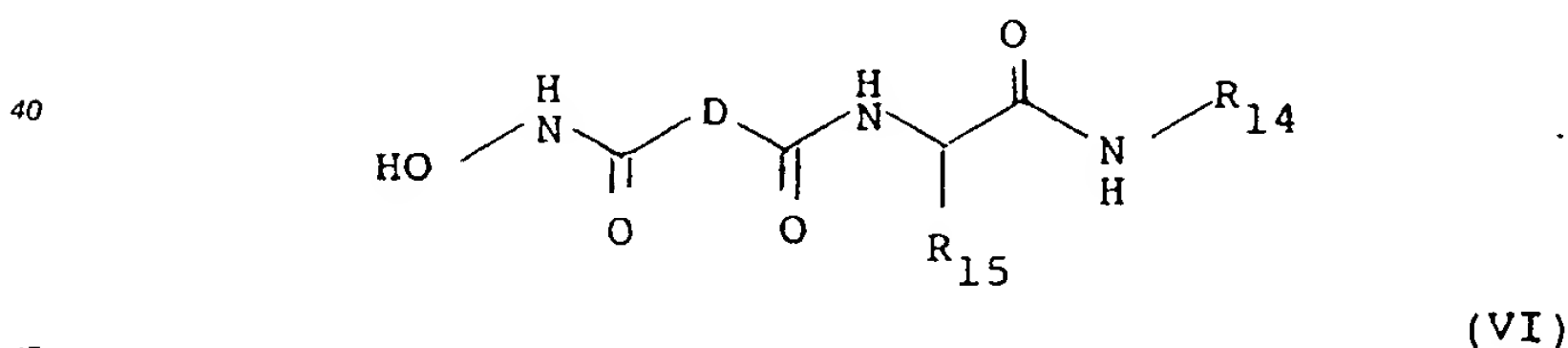
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Wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen or CF_3 ; R_3 is hydrogen, alkanoyl, aroyl in which the aryl moiety is optionally substituted, or a group R-S- where R is an organic residue such that the group R-S- provides an *in vivo* -cleavable disulphide bond; R_4 is C_3-6 alkyl, R_5 is hydrogen, alkyl, $-\text{CH}_2\text{R}_7$ where R_7 is optionally substituted phenyl or heteroaryl, or R_7 is a group $-\text{CH}(\text{R}_8)\text{OR}_9$ where R_8 is hydrogen or alkyl, and R_9 is hydrogen, alkyl, or $-\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$ where Ph is optionally substituted phenyl; R_6 is hydrogen, alkyl, $-\text{CH}(\text{R}_{10})\text{COR}_{11}$ where R_{10} is hydrogen or alkyl and R_{11} is hydroxy, alkoxy, or $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$ where each of R_{12} and R_{13} is hydrogen or alkyl, or R_{12} and R_{13} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring with an optional oxygen, sulphur or optionally substituted nitrogen atom in the ring; or R_5 and R_6 are joined as $-(\text{CH}_2)_e-$ where e is an integer from 4 to 12; and d is an integer from 1 to 3.

Compounds of formula (V) are described as collagenase inhibitors having utility in the treatment of disorders resulting from collagenolytic activity.

United States Patent No. 4,599,361 (Searle) and European Patent Publication No. 214639 (Searle) describe compounds of formula (VI):

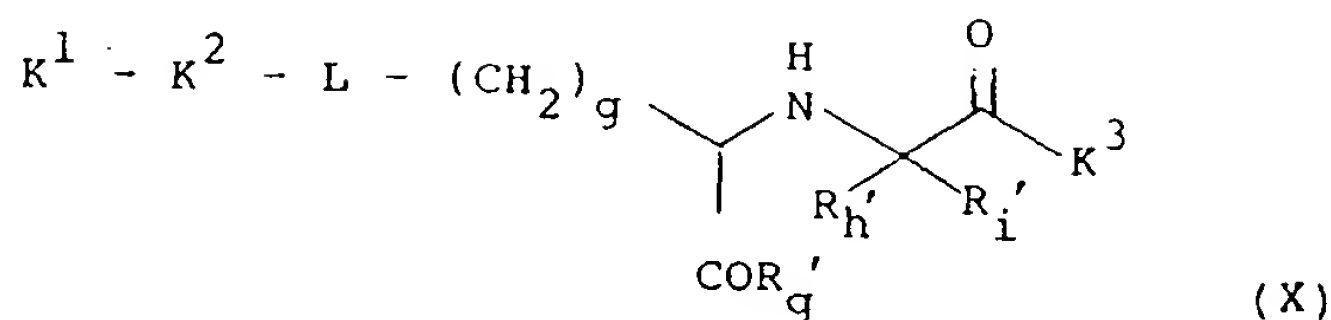


wherein R_{14} is C_1-6 alkyl; R_{15} is C_1-6 alkyl, benzyl, benzyloxybenzyl, $(\text{C}_1-6$ alkoxy)benzyl or benzyloxy $(\text{C}_1-6$ alkyl); and D is a group $-(\text{CHR}_{16}-\text{CHR}_{17})-$ or $-(\text{CR}_{16}-\text{CR}_{17})-$ where R_{16} is hydrogen, C_1-6 alkyl, phenyl or phenyl $(\text{C}_1-6$ alkyl) and R_{17} is hydrogen, $(\text{C}_1-6$ alkyl), phenyl $(\text{C}_1-6$ alkyl), cycloalkyl or cycloalkyl $(\text{C}_1-6$ alkyl).

Compounds of formula (VI) are described as inhibitors of mammalian collagenase having utility in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and related diseases in which collagenolytic activity is a contributing factor.

European Patent Publication No. 274453 (Laboratoire Roger Bellon) describes compounds of formula (VII):

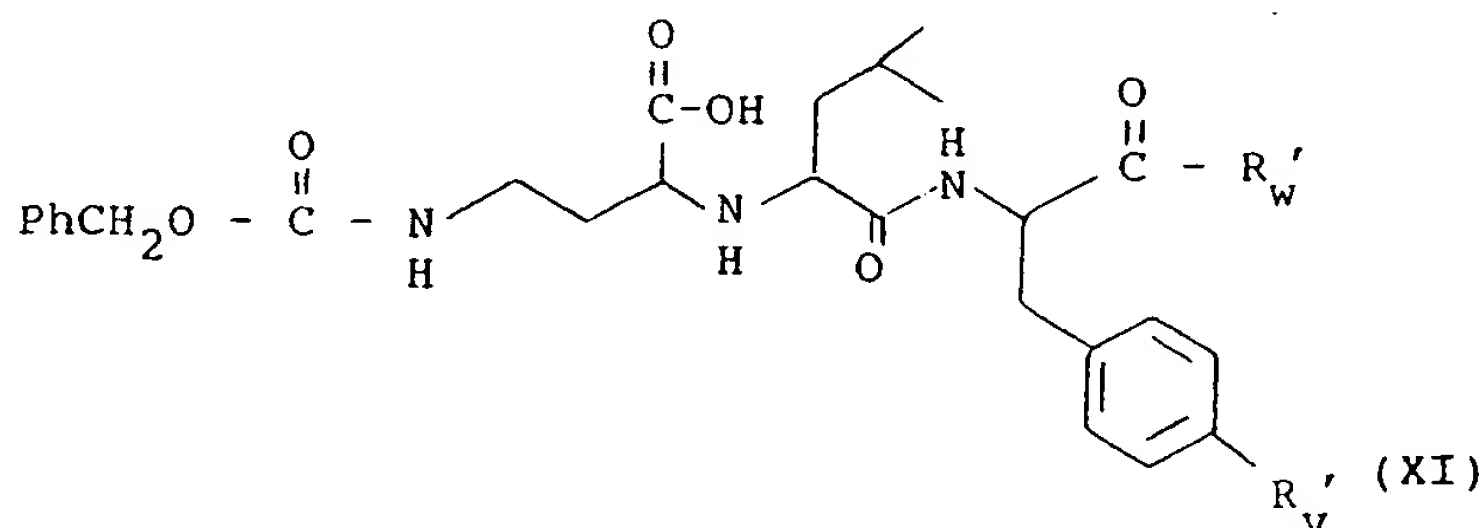
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wherein g is an integer from 1 to 4; R'_g represents hydroxy, alkoxy, aralkyloxy or hydroxyamino; R'_h represents hydrogen or alkyl; R'_i represents hydrogen, alkyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkyloxy, mercapto, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulphinyl, alkylsulphonyl, carboxy, carboxamido, carboxyalkyl, carboxyaralkyl, aralkoxycarbonylamino, amino, dialkylamino, acylamino, aroylamino and trihalomethyl. aralkyl optionally substituted on the aryl moiety by one or more groups selected from halogen, alkyl hydroxy, alkoxy, aralkoxy, amino, aminomethyl, cyano, alkylamino, dialkylamino, carboxy, sulphonamido, alkylthio, nitro and phenyl, or heteroaralkyl; L represents NR'_j wherein R'_j represents hydrogen or alkyl, or L represents a direct chemical bond; when L represents NR'_j , K^1 represents a group R'_k wherein R'_k is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, acyl, aroyl, aralkylacyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, aryl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, aralkoxy, aralkoxyamino, aminomethyl, cyano, acylamino, dialkylamino, carboxy, sulphonamido, alkylthio, nitro and phenyl; or alternatively K^1 represents a group $R'_z R'_m N-C(R'_n)(R'_o)-C(O)-$ wherein R'_z is R'_k as defined above, R'_m and R'_n independently represent hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl or together represent an alkylene chain of 2 to 4 carbon atoms so as to form with the adjacent nitrogen a 4- to 6- membered ring, and R'_o is R'_i as defined above; K^2 represents $N(R'_p)-C(R'_q)(R'_r)-C(O)-$ wherein R'_p and R'_q independently represent those groups as defined for R'_m above, or R'_p and R'_q together represent an alkylene chain of 2 to 4 carbon atoms so as to form with the adjacent nitrogen a 4- to 6- membered ring, and R'_r is R'_o as defined above; or alternatively K^1 and K^2 together represent hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, alkylsulphonyl, arylsulphonyl, aralkylsulphonyl, or a group $R'_s CO-$ wherein R'_s represents hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aralkoxy, alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, phenethenyl, phenethynyl, dialkylamino, substituted aryl as defined above for R'_k , substituted aralkyl as defined above for R'_i , or substituted aralkoxy wherein the substituent on the aromatic moiety is as for substituted aryl under R'_k above; or alternatively when L represents a direct chemical bond, K^1 and K^2 together represent hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aralkoxy, substituted aryl or substituted aralkoxy wherein the substituents on the aromatic moieties are as defined for substituted aralkyl under R'_i , hydroxy, mercapto, alkylthio, arylthio, aralkylthio, carboxy or carboxyalkyl; and K^3 represents R'_1 or a group $-N(R'_p)-C(R'_q)(R'_r)-C(O)-R'_u$ wherein R'_1 represents amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, hydroxyamino or aralkylamino, R'_p , R'_q and R'_r are as defined above under K^2 , and R'_u represents amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkylamino optionally substituted by amino, hydroxy, alkoxy, carboxy, carboxamido, carboxyalkyl, alkylthio, alkylsulphinyl or alkylsulphonyl, hydroxyamino, alkoxamino, aralkylamino, alkoxy, aralkoxy or alkylaminoalkoxy; with the proviso that when K^3 is alkylamino, then one of R'_h and R'_i is not hydrogen when the other is alkyl or hydroxyalkyl.

Compounds of formula (X) are described as inhibitors of mammalian collagenase which are useful in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and associated diseases.

European Patent Publication No. 159396 (Searle) describes compounds of formula (XI):



wherein R'_v represents hydroxy, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, aralkoxy or alkoxy substituted by alkylaminocarbonyl or a group $-C(O)-NH-CH(alkyl)-C(O)-NH-alkyl$; and R'_w represents alkylamino or aralkylamino.

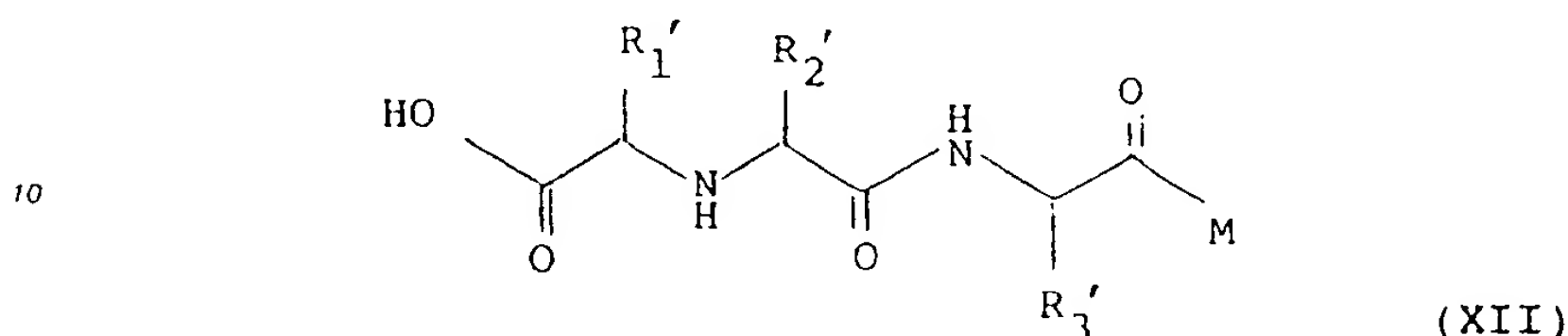
Compounds of formula (XI) wherein R'_v is hydroxy, alkoxy or aralkoxy fall within the scope of

compounds of formula (X) as defined above.

Compounds of formula (XI) are described as inhibitors of mammalian collagenase which are useful in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and related diseases.

European Patent Publication No. 232027 (ICI Americas Inc) describes compounds of formula (XII):

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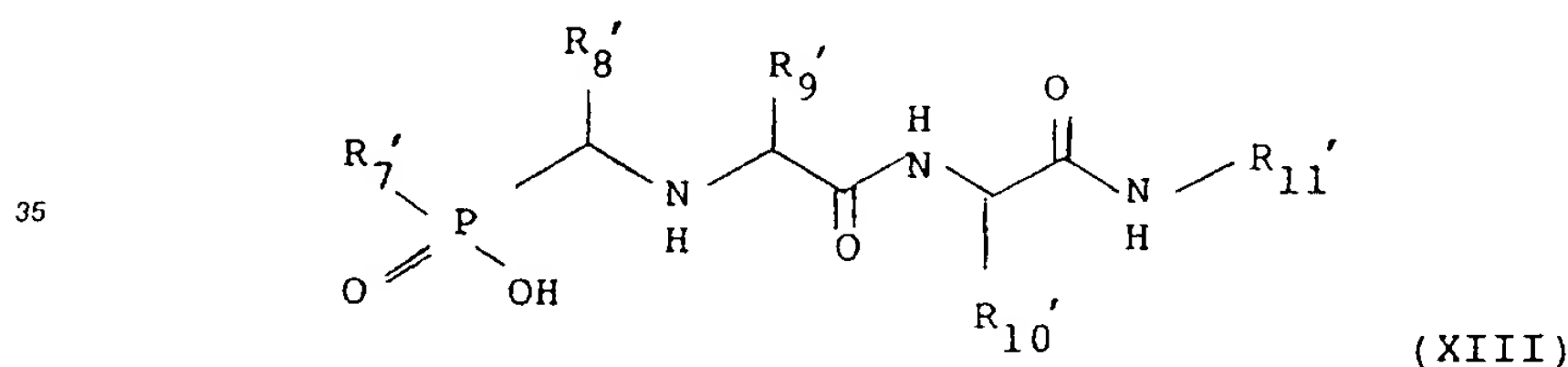


15 wherein R_1' is C_4-6 alkyl; R_2' is C_4-6 alkyl; R_3' is C_1-6 alkyl or C_6-10 aryl optionally substituted by C_1-4 alkyl or C_1-4 heteroalkyl having one or more heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen; and M is selected from $-NHR_4'$, $-OCH_2R_4'$, $-NH-CH(R_5')-C(O)-NHR_4'$, $-NH-CH(R_5')-C(O)-NH-CH(R_6')-C(O)-NHR_4'$, $-NH-CH(R_5')-C(O)-OCH_2R_4'$, and $-NH-CH(R_5')-C(O)-NHCH(R_6')-C(O)-OCH_2R_4'$, where R_4' is hydrogen, C_1-10 alkyl or C_6-10 aryl optionally substituted by C_1-4 alkyl or C_1-4 heteroalkyl having one or more heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen; and R_5' and R_6' are independently C_1-4 alkyl or C_6-10 aryl optionally substituted by C_1-4 alkyl or C_1-4 heteroalkyl having one or more heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen, subject to the proviso that if the compound of formula (XII) is a tripeptide terminating in $-NHR_4'$, then R_5' may not be isobutyl, and if the compound of formula (XII) is a tetrapeptide terminating in $-NHR_4'$, then R_6' may not be isobutyl.

25 compounds of formula (XII) are described as selective, inhibitors of proteoglycanase, that are not inhibitors of collagenase which are useful whenever it is desired to inhibit the activity of proteoglycanase and particularly when it is desired to selectively inhibit the activity of proteoglycanase in the presence of collagenase.

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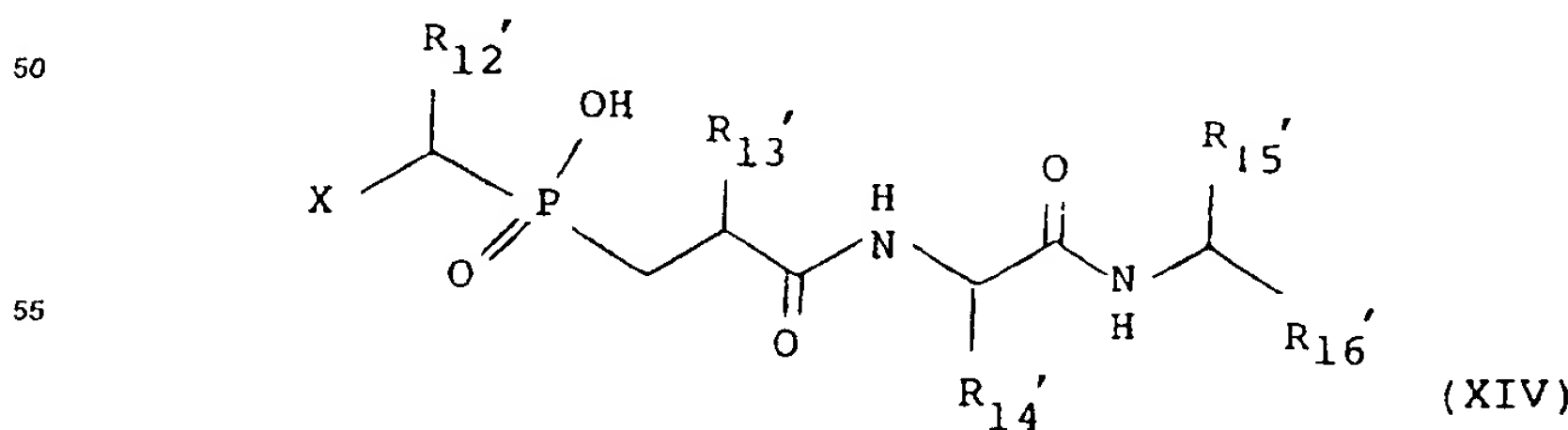
European Patent Publication No. 320118 (Beecham) describes compounds of formula (XIII):



40 wherein R_7' is hydrogen or hydroxy; R_8' is hydrogen or alkyl; R_9' is C_3-6 alkyl; R_{10}' is hydrogen, alkyl, $-CH_2-Q$ where Q is optionally substituted phenyl or heteroaryl, or R_{10}' is a group $-CH(R_{12}')-OR_{13}'$ where R_{12}' is hydrogen or alkyl and R_{13}' is hydrogen, alkyl or $-CH_2-Ph$ where Ph represents optionally substituted phenyl; and R_{11}' is hydrogen or alkyl.

45 Compounds of formula (XII) are described as collagenase inhibitors having utility in the treatment of disorders resulting from collagenolytic activity.

European Patent Publication No. 276436 (Hoffmann-La Roche) describes compounds of formula (XIV):



wherein R_{12}' represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, or aryl C_{1-6} alkyl; R_{13}' represents C_{2-5} alkyl; R_{14}' represents the side-chain of a natural α -amino acid in which any functional group present is optionally protected, any amino group present is optionally acylated or sulphonylated, or any carboxyl group present is optionally amidated, subject to the proviso that R_{14}' does not represent hydrogen or methyl; R_{15}' represents hydrogen or methyl; or R_{14}' and R_{15}' together represent $-(CH_2)_n-$ where n is an integer from 4 to 11; R_{16}' represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, carboxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy carbonyl or C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl; and X represents either a cyclic imido group derived from an aliphatic or aromatic dicarboxylic acid, from an N -carboxyamino acid, from an azadicarboxylic acid or from an O -carboxyhydroxy acid, or a group $R_{21}'-NR_{20}'-CH(R_{19}')-C(O)-NR_{18}'-CH(R_{17}')-C(O)-NH-$ in which R_{17}' represents the side-chain of a natural α -amino acid in which any functional group present is optionally protected, any amino group present is optionally acylated or sulphonylated, or any carboxyl group present is optionally amidated; R_{18}' represents hydrogen, or R_{17}' and R_{18}' together represent a trimethylene group; R_{19}' represents the side-chain of a natural α -amino acid in which any functional group present is optionally protected, any amino group present is optionally acylated or sulphonylated, or any carboxyl group present is optionally amidated; R_{20}' represents hydrogen; or R_{19}' and R_{20}' together represent a trimethylene group; and R_{21}' represents a protecting group or an acyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl or arylsulphonyl group, with L -stereochemistry at the chiral centres bearing R_{17}' and R_{19}' .

Compounds of formula (XIV) are described as inhibitors of the enzyme collagenase having utility in the control or prevention of degenerative joint diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

Further patent publications which describe compounds having activity as inhibitors of collagenase include the following:

US 4,235,885; US 4,297,275; US, 4,327,111 and US 4,382,081 (to Squibb); US 4,374,765; US 4,371,465; US 4,609,667; US 4,361,574 and US 4,371,466 (to American Home Products); US 4,242,354 (to Mediolanum Farm.); and WO 89/05819 (to Fuji Yakuhunin Kogyo).

We have now discovered that compounds which are inhibitors of the mammalian collagenase family of enzymes, including known inhibitor compounds and in particular the known inhibitor compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV) as hereinbefore defined, are also able to inhibit the degradation of myelin basic protein by the myelin-associated protease. These compounds and in particular compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV) as hereinbefore defined, are thus of potential utility in the treatment of demyelinating diseases such as multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a method of treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, in particular multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders, in mammals including humans, which method comprises administering to the mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is an inhibitor of a member of the mammalian collagenase family of enzymes, including collagenase.

The present invention also provides a method of treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, in particular multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders, in mammals including humans, which method comprises administering to the mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) to (XIV) as hereinbefore defined, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of compounds for use in the invention, including compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV), include salts formed with bases and, where a basic nitrogen is present, acid addition salts; these may be prepared by standard methods well known in the art of organic chemistry. Preferred salts for any compound identified in any of the aforementioned Patent Publications, in particular compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV), are incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Compounds for use in the invention, including compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV), and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts may also form pharmaceutically acceptable solvates, including hydrates, and these are encompassed whenever a compound for use in the invention is referred to.

Compounds for use in the invention and particularly compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV) may have one or more chiral centres and are thus capable of existing in more than one stereoisomeric form. The invention extends to each stereoisomeric form and to mixtures thereof, including racemates. Preferred stereoisomeric forms, and methods for their separation, of compounds identified in any of the aforementioned Patent publications, in particular compounds of formula (I) to (XIV), are incorporated herein by reference thereto.

The above-identified compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV) are defined using standard terminology well known in the art of organic chemistry. For the avoidance of doubt and for the sake of clarity, reference may be made to the individual Patent Publications, wherein compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV) are defined, in order to determine the particular meaning to be attributed to general terms, including *inter alia* alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, aroyl, halogen, amino acid or amino acid residue, 'optionally substituted' and

'protected', where used in the definition of compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV).

In compounds of the formula (I), preferred values for R_a include hydrogen, acetyl and benzoyl, R_c is preferably 2-methylpropyl and a is preferably 2, 3 or 4.

Suitable compounds of the formula (I) are those exemplified in United States Patent No. 4,263,293.

5 In compounds of the formula (II), preferred values for R_d include methyl, phenyl and *iso*-propyl. Preferred values for R_e include 2-methylpropyl, *n*-butyl and *n*-hexyl. R_f is preferably 4-methoxybenzyl or 1-(benzyloxy)ethyl and R_g is preferably methyl or *n*-butyl.

Suitable compounds of the formula (II) are those exemplified in United States Patent No. 4,595,700.

10 In compounds of the formula (III), a preferred value for R_h , when alkanoyl, is acetyl and, when aroyl, is benzoyl. Preferred values for R_h , R_i and R_j , when alkyl, include C_{2-6} alkyl with *iso*-butyl being particularly preferred. A preferred value for R_j , when aryl, is phenyl. In compounds of formula (III), R_h is preferably hydrogen, R_i is preferably hydrogen or methyl and R_j is preferably alkyl with *iso*-butyl being most preferred.

15 The hydrophobic amino acid, AA_1 , is suitably selected from naturally occurring amino acids such as phenylalanine, tryptophan and tyrosine, or may be a synthetic aromatic amino acid, for example naphthylalanine. Preferably AA_2 is alanine and AA_3 is glutamine. Suitable values for B include amino and ethoxy. Suitable compounds of the formula (III) are those exemplified in International Patent Application WO88/06890.

20 In compounds of the formula (IV), suitable values for R_k include hydrogen; C_{1-6} alkyl; phenyl and naphthyl optionally substituted by OH, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and halogen; hydroxy; C_{1-6} alkoxy; -NH-CH₂-COOH; -NH-CH₂-CONH₂; -NH-CH₂-CO₂Et; -NH-CH₂-CO₂^tBu; -NH-CH(^tBu)-CO₂H; -NH-CH(^tBu)-CO₂^tBu; and -NR_pR_q in which one of R_p and R_q is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-8} alkyl such as methyl or ethyl, or -NR_pR_q is N'-methyl-N-piperazinyl or N-morpholinyl.

25 Preferably R_k is C_{1-4} alkyl, especially methyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, especially methoxy, amino, alkylamino, especially methylamino, or -NH-CH₂-CO₂H. Suitable values for R_z include hydrogen, acetyl and benzoyl. Preferably R_z is hydrogen.

R_m is suitably a C_4 alkyl group such as *n*-butyl, *iso*-butyl or *sec*-butyl. Preferably R_m is *iso*-butyl. Preferred values for R_n include *iso*-butyl, benzyl, C_{1-6} alkoxybenzyl, especially 4-methoxybenzyl, 1-(benzyloxy)ethyl, and 9- or 10-membered fused bicyclic heteroarylmethyl, especially 3-indolylmethyl. 30 Suitable values for R_o include hydrogen, methyl, ethyl and 1-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl. Preferably R_o is methyl.

Suitable compounds of the formula (IV) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication Nos. 273689 and 322184. A preferred compound of formula (IV) is the compound described in Example 27 of European Patent Publication No. 273689.

35 In compounds of the formula (V), suitable values for R_1 and R_2 include hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, preferably methyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, preferably methoxy, halogen, preferably chlorine, and CF₃. Preferably both R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen or one of R_1 and R_2 is hydrogen and the other is C_{1-4} alkyl, especially methyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, especially methoxy, halogen, especially chlorine, or CF₃.

40 Preferably, R_3 is hydrogen, acetyl, benzoyl or a group R-S- where R is a C_{1-6} alkyl group or such that the compound of formula (V) is a dimer about the disulphide bond. More preferably R_3 is hydrogen.

R_4 is suitably a C_4 alkyl group such as *n*-butyl, *iso*-butyl or *sec*-butyl. Preferably R_4 is *iso*-butyl.

45 Preferred values for R_5 include *iso*-butyl, benzyl, C_{1-6} alkoxybenzyl, especially 4-methoxybenzyl, 1-(benzyloxy)ethyl, and 9- or 10-membered fused bicyclic heteroarylmethyl, especially 3-indolylmethyl. Suitable values for R_6 include hydrogen, methyl, ethyl and 1-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl. Preferably R_6 is methyl. when R_5 and R_6 are combined as -(CH₂)_e-, e is preferably 10, resulting in a lactam structure based on a 13-membered ring.

Suitable compounds of the formula (V) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 358305.

In compounds of the formula (VI), R_{14} is preferably methyl, R_{15} is preferably 4-methoxybenzyl, and D is suitably -(CHR₁₆-CHR₁₇)- in which R_{16} is preferably hydrogen and R_{17} is preferably 2-methylpropyl.

50 Suitable compounds of formula (VI) are those exemplified in United States Patent No. 4,599,361 and European Patent Publication No. 214639. A preferred compound of formula (VI) is the compound described in Example 1 of United States Patent No. 4,599,361.

In compounds of the formula (VII), E is preferably L-valine and F is preferably C_{1-2} alkylamino in which the alkyl moiety is substituted by phenyl or trifluoromethylphenyl.

55 Suitable compounds of the formula (VII) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 274453.

In compounds of the formula (VIII), suitable values for R_{18} include *iso*-butyl and *n*-pentyl. R_{19} and R_{20} are suitably independently selected and derived from the group of amino acids comprising glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, serine, threonine, cysteine, methionine,

asparagine, glutamine, lysine, arginine, glutamic acid and aspartic acid. Suitable values for R_{21} include those defined for R_{19} and R_{20} .

Preferably, R_{19} and R_{20} are selected from glycine, tyrosine, tryptophan, serine, threonine, cysteine, methionine, asparagine, glutamine, lysine, arginine, glutamic acid and aspartic acid.

5 In preferred compounds of the formula (VIII), R_{18} is iso -butyl or n -pentyl, R_{19} is leucine or valine, R_{20} is alanine or phenylalanine, Y is 1, and G is hydrogen. Suitable compounds of formula (VIII) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 231081.

In compounds of the formula (IX), R_a is suitably a C3-or C4-alkyl group and preferably an n -propyl, iso -butyl or sec -butyl group.

10 R_b is suitably an iso -propyl or iso -butyl group, a protected p-hydroxybenzyl group, preferably p-methoxybenzyl, or protected or acylated 4-aminobutyl, preferably 4-tert -butoxycarbonylaminobutyl, 4-glycylaminobutyl or 4-(4-carboxybenzoylaminobutyl). R_c is suitably hydrogen, methyl or a protected 4-aminobutyl group. Preferably R_c is hydrogen, methyl or 4-phthaloylaminobutyl.

R_d is suitably hydrogen or methyl or alternatively R_b and R_d together are $-(CH_2)_f$ where f is an integer from 5 to 9.

15 When R_d is hydrogen or methyl, R_e is suitably hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl, di(C_{1-6} alkoxy)methyl, carboxy or C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl. When R_d is hydrogen or methyl, R_e is preferably carboxy or C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl especially ethoxycarbonyl. When R_b and R_d together are $-(CH_2)_f$, R_e is preferably hydrogen. Preferably R_f is hydrogen.

20 Suitable compounds of the formula (IX) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 236872.

In compounds of the formula (X) there is a preferred group of compounds in which R_i is as hereinbefore defined but excluding aralkyl or heteroalkyl, and K^3 is group $-NH-CH(R_i')-C(O)R_u'$ in which R_i' represents alkyl substituted by alkoxy, aralkoxy, alkoxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, carboxyalkyl or carboxyaralkyl, or R_i' represents aralkyl substituted by one or more groups selected from alkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio or aralkoxy, and R_u' is as hereinbefore defined.

25 When K^3 is a group $-NH-OH(R_i')-C(O)R_u'$ as defined above, preferably K^1 and K^2 together represent hydrogen, L is a direct chemical bond, R_h represents hydrogen and R_i' represents alkyl or alkyl substituted by one or more trifluoromethyl groups.

30 Within this preferred first sub-class of compounds R_i' is preferably benzyloxymethyl, 1-(benzyloxy)ethyl, 4-benzyloxyphenylmethyl or 4-methoxyphenylmethyl.

In a second preferred sub-class of compounds falling within the preferred definition of K^3 , L represents NR_j' and K^1 and K^2 represent a group $R_s'CO-$ wherein R_s' represents alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aralkoxy, alkylamino, arylamino, aralkylamino, dialkylamino; or aryl, aralkyl and aralkoxy each substituted in the aromatic moiety as hereinbefore defined. Particularly preferred compounds in this second sub-class are 35 those in which R_j' is hydrogen, and R_i' and R_i' are as defined in the first identified sub-class of compounds. In a most preferred group of compounds within this second sub-class, g is 2 and R_s' is benzyloxy; benzyloxy substituted by 4-chloro, 2-chloro, 4-methyl, 4-nitro or 4-amino; benzylamino; phenyl; or phenyl substituted by 4-chloro, 4-chloro, 4-methyl, 4-nitro or 4-amino.

40 Suitable compounds of the formula (X) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 126974.

In compounds of the formula (XI), R_v is suitably straight or branched chain C_{1-6} alkoxy and preferably n -propoxy or n -pentoxy. R_w is suitably alkylamino and preferably methylamino.

Suitable compounds of the formula (XI) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 159396.

45 In compounds of the formula (XII), R_1 is preferably iso -butyl. Suitable values for R_2 include n -butyl, n -pentyl, n -hexyl and iso -butyl. Preferably R_2 is iso -butyl. Suitable values for R_3 include methyl, iso -propyl, iso -butyl and phenylmethyl. Suitable values for R_4 include methyl and phenylmethyl. Suitably R_5 is methyl and R_6 is hydrogen or methyl.

Suitable compounds of the formula (XII) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 232027.

50 In compounds of the formula (XIII), R_7 is preferably hydroxy. suitable values for R_8 include hydrogen, methyl, ethyl and iso -propyl. R_8 is preferably methyl or ethyl. R_9 is suitably a C4 alkyl group such as n -butyl, iso -butyl or sec -butyl. Preferably R_9 is iso -butyl.

Preferred values for R_{10} include benzyl, 4-hydroxybenzyl, C_{1-6} alkoxybenzyl, especially 4-methoxybenzyl, and 9- or 10-membered fused bicyclic heteroaryl, especially 3-indolylmethyl. R_{11} is suitably methyl or ethyl and preferably methyl.

55 Suitable compounds of the formula (XIII) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 320118.

A preferred compound of the formula (XIII) is the compound Example 1 A/B described in European Patent publication No. 320118.

In compounds of the formula (XIV), R_{12} is preferably hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, especially methyl. R_{13} is

preferably a C3- or C4-alkyl group, especially n -propyl, iso -butyl or sec -butyl. Preferably R_{14}' represents iso -butyl and R_{15}' represents hydrogen, or R_{14}' and R_{15}' together represent $-(CH_2)_n-$ where n is 5 to 9, and R_{16}' represents hydrogen. Alternatively R_{14}' preferably represents iso -butyl, R_{15}' preferably represents methyl and R_{16}' preferably represents a carboxyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy carbonyl group, especially ethoxycarbonyl.

Preferred values for X are identified in European Patent Publication No. 276436.

Suitable compounds of the formula (XIV) are those exemplified in European Patent Publication No. 276436.

Compounds for use in the invention, including compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV), may be prepared as described in the aforementioned Patent Publications, the subject matter of each of which is incorporated herein by reference, or by analogous methods thereto.

The administration of compounds for use in the present invention, including compounds of the formula (I) to (XIV) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, may be by way of oral or parenteral administration, but oral administration is preferred.

Preferably a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof will be administered in the form of a pharmaceutical composition in which it is combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Preferably, a pharmaceutical composition is in unit dosage form and in a form adapted for oral or parenteral administration.

A composition of the invention, which may be prepared by admixture, may contain a diluent, binder, filler, disintegrant, flavouring agent, colouring agent, lubricant or preservative in conventional manner. These conventional excipients may be employed in conventional manner.

Compositions may, for example, be in the form of tablets, capsules, sachets, vials, powders, granules, lozenges, reconstitutable powders, or liquid preparations, for example solutions or suspensions, or suppositories.

The compositions, for example those suitable for oral administration, may contain conventional excipients such as binding agents, for example syrup, acacia, gelatin, sorbitol, tragacanth, or polyvinylpyrrolidone; fillers, for example lactose, sugar, maize-starch, calcium phosphate, sorbitol or glycine; tableting lubricants, for example magnesium stearate; disintegrants, for example starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone, sodium starch glycollate or microcrystalline cellulose; or pharmaceutically acceptable wetting agents such as sodium lauryl sulphate.

Solid compositions may be obtained by conventional methods of blending, filling, tableting or the like. Repeated blending operations may be used to distribute the active agent throughout those compositions employing large quantities of fillers. When the composition is in the form of a tablet, powder, or lozenge, any carrier suitable for formulating solid pharmaceutical compositions may be used, examples being magnesium stearate, starch, glucose, lactose, sucrose, rice flour and chalk. Tablets may be coated according to methods well known in normal pharmaceutical practice, in particular with an enteric coating. The composition may also be in the form of an ingestible capsule, for example of gelatin containing the compound, if desired with a carrier or other excipients. For example, in a hard gelatin capsule containing the required amount of a compound of the invention in the form of a powder or granulate in intimate mixture with a lubricant, such as magnesium stearate, a filler, such as microcrystalline cellulose, and a disintegrant, such as sodium starch glycollate.

Compositions for oral administration as liquids may be in the form of, for example, emulsions, syrups, or elixirs, or may be presented as a dry product for reconstitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid compositions may contain conventional additives such as suspending agents, for example sorbitol, syrup, methyl cellulose, gelatin, hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, aluminium stearate gel, hydrogenated edible fats; emulsifying agents, for example lecithin, sorbitan monooleate, or acacia; aqueous or non-aqueous vehicles, which include edible oils, for example almond oil and fractionated coconut oil, oily esters, for example esters of glycerine, propylene glycol, ethyl alcohol, glycerine, water or normal saline; preservatives, for example methyl or propyl p-hydroxybenzoate or sorbic acid; and if desired conventional flavouring or colouring agents.

The compounds of this invention may also be administered by a non-oral route. In accordance with routine pharmaceutical procedure, the compositions may be formulated, for example for rectal administration as a suppository or for parenteral administration in an injectable form. For injection, for example by injection into the cerebro-spinal fluid or via other routes that will gain access to the sites of demyelination as freely soluble solutions or as poorly dispersed depot stores, the compounds of the invention may be presented in an aqueous or non-aqueous solution, suspension or emulsion in a pharmaceutically acceptable liquid, e.g. sterile pyrogen-free water or a parenterally acceptable oil or a mixture of liquids, which may contain bacteriostatic agents, anti-oxidants or other preservatives, buffers or solutes to render the solution isotonic with the blood, thickening agents, suspending agents or other pharmaceutically acceptable

additives. Such forms will be presented in sterile unit dose form such as ampoules or disposable injection devices or in multi-dose forms such as a bottle from which the appropriate dose may be withdrawn or a solid form or concentrate which can be used to prepare an injectable formulation.

For topical and percutaneous administration, the preparations may also be presented as an ointment, cream, lotion, gel, spray, aerosol, wash, skin paint or patch.

The suitable dosage range for compounds for use in the invention may vary from compound to compound and may depend on the particular nature and severity of the demyelinating condition to be treated. It will also depend, *inter alia*, upon the relation of potency to absorbability and the mode of administration chosen.

A unit dose for demyelinating diseases will generally contain from 10 to 1000 mg and preferably will contain from 10 to 500 mg, in particular 10, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450 or 500 mg. The composition may be administered one or more times a day, for example 2, 3 or 4 times daily, so that the total daily dose for a 70 kg adult will normally be in the range 10 to 3000 mg. Such a dosage corresponds to approximately 0.15 to 50 mg/kg per day. Suitably the dosage is within the range 0.5 to 20 mg/kg per day.

Alternatively, in particular for injection, the unit dose will contain from 2 to 200 mg of a compound of the invention and be administered in multiples, if desired.

The present invention also provides the use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is an inhibitor of a member of the mammalian collagenase family of enzymes for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, in particular multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders.

Moreover, the present invention provides the use of a compound of the formula (I) to (XIV) as hereinbefore defined, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, in particular multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders.

The present invention further provides a pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, in particular multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders, which comprises an effective amount of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is an inhibitor of a member of the mammalian collagenase family of enzymes and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

There is also provided a pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, in particular multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders, which comprises an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) to (XIV) as hereinbefore defined, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Such compositions may be prepared in the manner as hereinbefore described.

The following examples illustrate the preparation of representative compounds for use according to the invention of the formula (IV), (VI) and (XIII) and the following pharmacological data illustrate their activities.

40 Description 1

3-Acetylmercapto-6-methyl-4-[[[1-(S)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]heptanoic acid, methyl ester (D1)

A solution of 6-methyl-4-[[[1-(S)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]hept-2(and 3)-enoic acid, methyl ester (2.5 g; EPA 273689, Description 16) in thiolacetic acid (100 ml) was left at room temperature for 28 days, then was evaporated to dryness *in vacuo*. Column chromatography (150 g) of the residue eluting initially with ether, and then ether-chloroform (1:1) gave the title compound (0.32 g) as a single isomer (Isomer A), m.p. 134-136°C (from ether). (Found: C,60.32; H,6.88; N,8.80. C₂₄H₃₃N₃O₅S requires C,60.61; H,6.99; N,8.83%).

δ (CDCl₃): 0.84(d, J = 5 Hz) and 0.85(d, J = 5 Hz) (total 6H), 1.2-1.75 (2H, m), 2.29(3H, s), 2.5-2.7(3H, m), 2.64-(3H, d, J = 5 Hz), 3.11(1H, dd, J = 8, 14 Hz), 3.3(1H, dd, J = 6, 14 Hz), 3.62(3H, s), 3.94(1H, m), 4.72(1H, g, J = 7 Hz), 5.64(1H, brd), 6.52(1H, d, J = 8 Hz) 7.05-7.25(3H, m), 7.36(1H, d, J = 7 Hz), 7.72(1H, d, J = 7 Hz) and 8.17(1H, s).

Description 2

N-[3-(N'-Benzyloxycarboxamido)-2-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl]-O-methyl-L-tyrosine N-Methylamide (D2)

To a solution of N-[3-carboxy-2-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl]-O-methyl-L-tyrosine N-methylamide (US Patent 4599361; J.P. Dickens et al.) (0.106 mol) in a mixture of dimethylformamide and dichloromethane, was added 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (18g, 0.117 mol) in dimethylformamide. A solution of O-benzylhydroxylamine (18.8g, 0.117 mol) in dichloromethane, previously adjusted to pH 8.0 with diisopropylethylamine, was added and the mixture was cooled to 0°C. A solution of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (24g, 0.117 mol) in dichloromethane was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18h.

The mixture was filtered, and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* and dissolved in ethyl acetate. It was washed with 1 N hydrochloric acid, water, sodium bicarbonate and water and dried (MgSO₄). The product was chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with ethyl acetate, followed by methanol-ethyl acetate (1:19) to afford the title compound (20.3g) as a 1:1 mixture of diastereoisomers.

Example 13-Mercapto-6-methyl-4-[[[1-(S)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]heptanoic acid, methyl ester (E1)

An ice-cooled solution of 3-acetylmercapto-6-methyl-4-[[[1-(S)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]heptanoic acid, methyl ester (01; 0.1 g) in nitrogen-purged methanol (5 ml) was treated with 35% aqueous ammonia (1.5 ml). The mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen for 2 h. The solution was evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* and the residue was triturated with cold ether to give the title compound as a single isomer (Isomer A), (52 mg), m.p. 73-75°C. (Found: C, 60.69; H, 7.35; N, 9.64%. C₂₂H₃₁N₃O₄S requires C, 60.95; H, 7.21; N, 9.69%).

δ (CDCl₃): 0.87(6H, d, J = 6Hz), 1.4-1.7(2H, m), 1.67(1H, d, J = 9Hz), 2.37(1H, dd, J = 5, 15Hz), 2.41(1H, m), 2.60(1H, dd, J = 3, 15Hz), 2.65(3H, d, J = 5Hz), 3.13(1H, dd, J = 7, 14Hz), 3.21(1H, m), 3.30(1H, dd, J = 7, 14Hz), 3.67(3H, s), 4.75(1H, g, J = 7Hz), 5.60(1H, brd), 6.53(1H, d, J = 8Hz), 7.05-7.25(3H, m), 7.35(1H, d, J = 8Hz), 7.71(1H, d, J = 8Hz) and 8.13(1H, s).

Example 2N-[3-(N'-Hydroxycarboxamido)-2-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl]-O-methyl-L-tyrosine N-Methylamide (E2)

A mixture of N-[3-(N'-benzyloxycarboxamido)-2-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl]-O-methyl-L-tyrosine N-methylamide (D2) (20.3g) and 10% palladium-carbon (2g) in ethanol was hydrogenated at room temperature and atmospheric pressure until uptake of hydrogen ceased. The solution was filtered, and the filtrate evaporated to dryness *in vacuo*, to afford the title compound as a white solid (16g), $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -8.1^\circ$ (c = 1% in methanol).

δ (d₆-DMSO) 0.5-0.9 (6H, m), 1.0-1.5 (1H, m), 2.0-2.5 (2H, m), 2.5-2.8 (8H, m), 3.75 (3H, s), 4.45 (1H, m), 6.75 (2H, t, J = 8Hz), 7.15 (2H, t, J = 8Hz), 7.4-7.8 (2H, m), 7.85 (1H, m), 8.1 (1H, d, J = 8Hz), 8.65 (1H, s) and 10.50 (1H, s).

Example 3N-[N-(1-Phosphonoethyl)-leucyl]-N,O-dimethyl-L-tyrosinamide (E3)

N-[N-(1-Phosphonoethyl)-leucyl]-N,O-dimethyl-L-tyrosinamide, diethyl ester (0.4g; EPA 320118, Description 3) was dissolved in dichloromethane (10 ml) and treated with bromotrimethyl silane (5 ml). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 48 h, methanol (20 ml) was added and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo* to give the title compound, a yellow foam, as a mixture of 4 diastereoisomers (0.37 g) (E1). Column chromatography of the crude product (150 mg) using reverse phase silica, eluting with a gradient of 5% to 30% methanol in water, gave a faster running 1:1 mixture of 2 diastereoisomers. Isomer E1 A/B (30

mg).

δ (CDCl₃): 0.80(6H,m), 1.16(4H,m), 1.44(3H,m), 2.58(3H,m), 2.78(1H,m), 2.98(1H,m), 3.52(0.5H, broad s), 3.71(3H, s), 3.88(0.5H, broad s), 4.46(1H, m), 6.82(2H, m), 7.16(2H,m), 8.18(1H, broad s), 8.80(1H, m).

Observed FAB (M + H)⁺ 430. C₁₉H₃₂N₃O₆P requires M 429.

5 Further elution gave a slower running mixture of 2⁺ diastereoisomers.

Isomer E1 C/D (20 mg). Observed FAB (M + H)⁺ 430. C₁₉H₃₂N₃O₆P requires M 429.

Separation of Isomers E1 A/B

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Isomer E1 A/B was separated into single diastereoisomers by preparative HPLC on a Hamilton PRP-1 column, eluting with 25:75 methanol/0.05 M aqueous ammonium acetate, pH 5.0, to give:

Isomer A: δ (CD₃OD): 0.87(3H,d), 0.92(3H,d), 1.26(3H,dd), 1.45(3H,m), 2.65(1H,dd), 2.70(3H,s), 2.84(1H,dd), 3.10(1H,dd), 3.63(1H, broad t), 3.74(3H,s), 4.60(1H,dd), 6.82(2H,d), 7.16(2H,d).

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Isomer B: δ (CD₃OD): 0.90(3H,d), 0.94(3H,d), 1.25(3H,dd), 1.54(3H,m), 2.61(1H,dd), 2.69(3H,s), 2.87(1H,dd), 3.05(1H,dd), 3.75(3H,s), 4.16(1H, broad t), 4.58(1H,dd), 6.84(2H,d), 7.18(2H,d).

Assay for inhibition of myelin-degrading metalloprotease:

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Myelin-degrading enzymic activity was monitored by determining the degradation of purified, radiolabelled human MBP (myelin basic protein). Human MBP was isolated from human myelin according to the method of Dunkley and Carnegie (Research Methods in Neurochemistry, 2, 219-245, 1974), and labelled with ¹²⁵I-iodine: free iodide was removed by chromatography on Sephadex G25.

25

25 μ l ¹²⁵I-MBP (18.75 μ g, 10⁵ cpm) was added to 50 μ l of a solution of purified myelin-degrading enzyme (final concentration 10 μ g/ml) in 150 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.4, containing 2 mM CaCl₂ and 2 mM MgCl₂. Inhibitors were dissolved in methanol and diluted in the Tris/CaCl₂/MgCl₂ buffer immediately before use.

30

After 2h incubations at 37°C, enzymic action was terminated by adding 25 μ l SDS-sample buffer (10% SDS, 10% sucrose, 200 mM dithiothreitol and 0.02% bromophenol blue) and heating to 70°C for 10 min. An aliquot of the resulting solution was then electrophoresed on 15% polyacrylamide gels, in the presence of SDS, and the gels were stained with Coomassie Blue. Bands corresponding to intact MBP and to the large fragments generated by enzymic degradation, as described by Glynn et al. (J. Neurochem. 48, 752-759, 1987), were excised and counted in a gamma counter.

35

IC₅₀ data were calculated as the concentrations of inhibitors reducing the activity of the myelin-degrading enzyme by 50%.

The activities of representative compounds of the invention are illustrated in the Table below:

40

Inhibition of myelin-degrading enzyme	
Compound	IC ₅₀ (μ M)
TIMP	90 units/ml*
Example 1	1.8
Example 2	2.0
Example 3	15.5

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*The TIMP unit is defined as the amount of purified TIMP that will inhibit the enzymic activity of 2 units of mammalian collagenase by 50%. The unit of collagenase is defined as the amount of enzyme that degrades 1 μ g of native fibrillar collagen (rat skin type I) per minute at 37°C.

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Claims

1. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is an inhibitor of a member of the mammalian collagenase family of enzymes for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system.
2. Use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the demyelinating disease is multiple sclerosis.
- 5 3. Use as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the compound is a collagenase inhibitor.
4. Use as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the compound is of the formula (I) to (XIV) as described in: US 4,263,293; US 4,595,700; WO 88/06890; EPA-273689; EPA-322184; EPA-358305; EPA-214639; EPA-274453; EPA-231081; EPA-236872; EPA-126974; EPA-159396; EPA-232027; EPA-320118 or EPA-276436.
5. Use as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the compound is:
- 10 3-mercapto-6-methyl-4-[[[1-(S)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]heptanoic acid, methyl ester;
- N-3-(N'-hydroxycarboxamido)-2-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl-O-methyl-L-tyrosine N-methylamide; or
- N-[N-(1-phosphonoethyl)-leucyl]-N,O-dimethyl-L-tyrosinamide.

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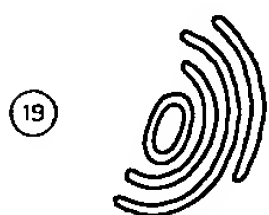
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(54) **Use of collagenase inhibitors in the treatment of demyelinating diseases, in particular multiple sclerosis.**

(57) The use of a compound having activity as an inhibitor of a member of the mammalian collagenase family of enzymes, including collagenase, in the treatment of demyelinating diseases of the nervous system, in particular multiple sclerosis and related demyelinating disorders.

EP 0 423 943 A3



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention
shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent
proceedings, as the European search report

Application number

EP 90 31 0248

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
A	PROGR. CLIN. BIOL. RES., vol. 39, 1980, pages 1-10, Alan R. Liss, Inc., New York, US; M.E. SMITH: "Proteolytic enzymes in deyelination" * Whole article * --	1-3,5	A 61 K 31/405 A 61 K 31/165 A 61 K 31/66
A,D	US-A-4 599 361 (DICKENS et al.) * Column 1, lines 27-44; column 8, example 1 * --	1,3,5	
A,D	EP-A-0 320 118 (BEECHAM GROUP PLC) * Page 3, lines 1-36; page 10, description 3 * -- ./.	1,3,5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4) A 61 K
INCOMPLETE SEARCH The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the provisions of the European Patent Convention to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of some of the claims. Claims searched completely: 5 Claims searched incompletely: 1-3 Claims not searched: 4 Reason for the limitation of the search: See sheet -C-			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17-04-1991	Examiner GAC
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A,D	EP-A-0 322 184 (BEECHAM GROUP PLC) * Abstract; page 3, lines 1-36 * --	1,3,5	
E	EP-A-0 401 963 (BEECHAM GROUP PLC) * Abstract; page 3, lines 45-55; page 4, lines 1-11 * --	1-3,5	
A,D	JOURNAL OF NEUROCHEMISTRY, vol. 5, no. 3, 1988, pages 688-694, International Soc.; A. CHANTRY et al: "Metalloendo- protease cleavage of 18.2- and 14.1.-kilodalton basic proteins dissociating from rodent myelin membranes generates 10.0- and 5.9-kilodalton C-terminal fragments" * Whole article *	1-3,5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)



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1. Claims 1,3: A pharmacological mechanism of action (inhibition of an enzyme) can not chemically define the structure of compounds.

Claim 1 with greater reason, could said compounds not be defined if they inhibit various enzymes of a theoretically same family of enzymes (unlimited number of members of the so-called family).

Claim 1: Furthermore, the term "demyelinating" diseases may encompass a large number of unrelated disorders (said "demyelinating" phenomenon could be primary or secondary to other disturbances).

2. The way of drafting claim 4 is forbidden by the EPC (see Rule 29(6) EPC). Therefore, claim 4 was not searched.
3. In conclusion, the subject searched for the present invention was the use of:
 - * 3-mercapto-6-methyl-4- [[1-(s)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]heptanoic acid, methylester
 - * N-[3-[N'-hydroxycarboxamido)-2-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl]-O-methyl-L-tyrosine N-methylamide or
 - * N-[N-(1-phosphonoethyl)-leucyl]-N,O-dimethyl-L-tyrosinamide for the manufacture of a medicament for treating multiple sclerosis.